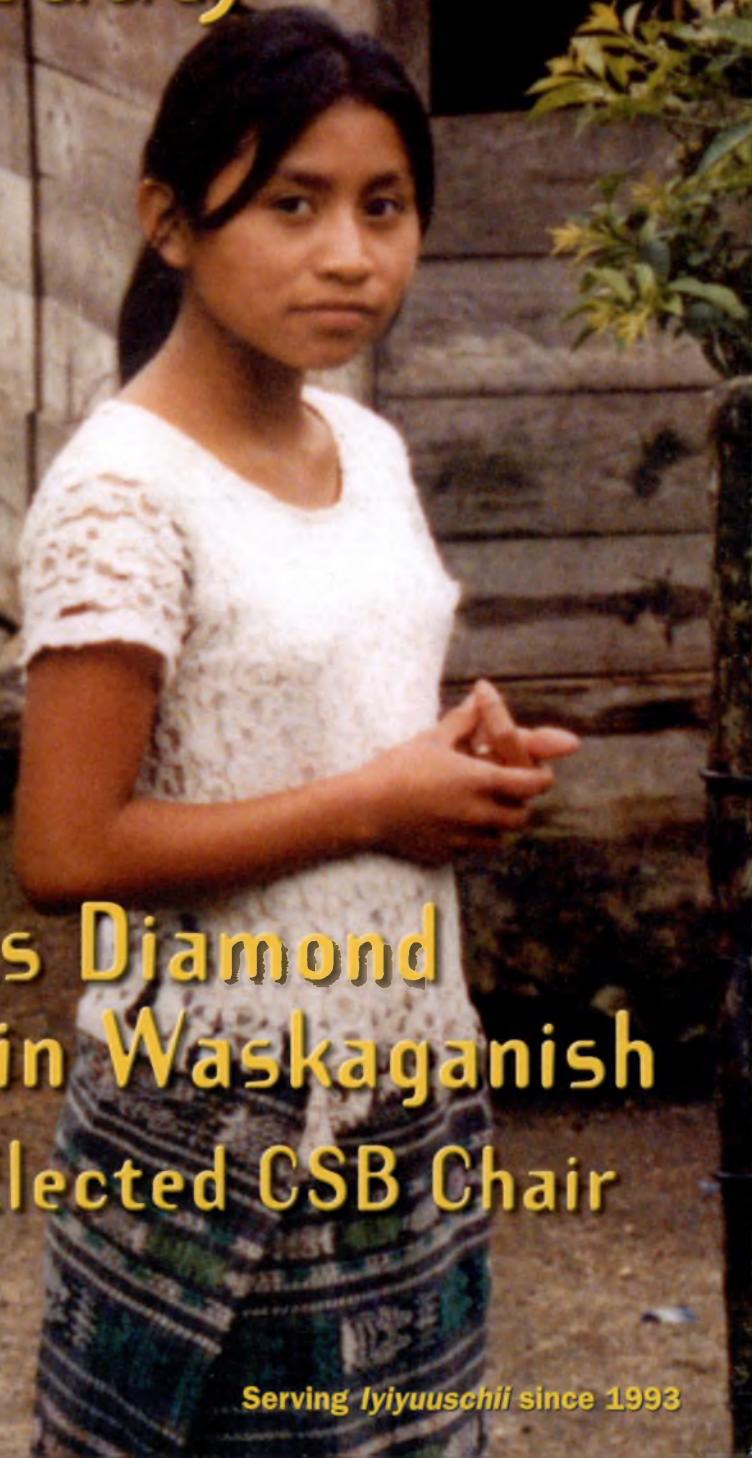


Nation

Guatemala: Primal Beauty



Weistche Defeats Diamond
in Waskaganish

William Mianscum Elected CSB Chair

Come and See Our 2003 Models

Dodge
DAKOTA M
Trucks



215,
3^e Avenue
Val d'Or, Qc
J9P 1R7

Dodge
RAM M
Trucks



C C D
P U A C D D C D P / o - D P -
L o l r d A - L d l o r P -
D D M M C - C A A - D P -
D C C A - D N o r i h -
D C C A -



Bring this ad and get
a free remote starter
with the purchase of
any vehicle



Canada's #1 Selling Vehicle.

Dodge Caravan

For
information
call
Yvon St-Pierre
819-825-0880



Jeep



YAMAHA YAMAHA YAMAHA



YAMAHA YAMAHA YAMAHA



Canoes (Abitibi Fiber) Legend Boat



**MOTO
SPORT
DU CUIVRE
INC.**

**FINANCING PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
PAY ONLY 3 OR 6 MONTHS DURING THE YEAR**

www.motosportducuivre.com
motosportducuivre@cablevision.qc.ca

175 Boul Evain Est
Rouyn-Noranda, Qc J0Z 1Y0
Toll Free: 1-866-768-5611
Fax 1-819-768-3682

Come and See Our 2003 Models

MUSICAL CHAIRS AT CREE HEALTH BOARD



How do you fire the boss?

That's certainly the question the Cree Board of Health and Social Services has been preoccupied with these last few months. The answer is one of the following: a) secretly; b) by calling it a suspension; c) by saying the position of chairman – not the chairman himself – is suspended; d) all of the above.

If you chose "d," you're one smart cookie. And you have to be smart in order to follow the twists, turns and mysteries that are enveloping one of our most important institutions.

To confirm the rumours floating around for a month now, Nemaska representative Bertie Wapachee is no longer chairman of the CBHSS. At a meeting last month, the board voted to suspend the position of chairman. Meaning Wapachee is out of a job. But then the board voted to make Chisasibi representative Charles Bobbish acting chair. Meaning the position of chairman is now magically unsuspended. Stop and take a few quick breaths if you're getting dizzy.

Not that you're supposed to know any of this. The CBHSS apparently believes it can fire the boss and continue along as if nothing has happened. No official announcement has been made. No press releases issued. Bobbish did not return phone calls to the Nation to comment on this strange and troubling turn of events. Wapachee, for his part, says he has no comment, "for the moment." Executive Director Abel Kitchen,

meanwhile, says he wasn't at that meeting, and thus – you guessed it – cannot comment.

Well, the Nation believes in openness, transparency and free speech – especially as it regards an entity so central to the lives of each and every Cree – so we will comment. Something smells rotten here. This has all the earmarks of power politics run amok. And at a point – as we also hear – that the Cree are about to sign a health agreement with the province of Quebec, to have political vendettas crippling the board of health and social services is about the worst timing possible.

What we can piece together from the rumours and speculation is that Wapachee didn't play the game according to the new, secret rulebook that says, "You're either with us or against us." What this means is that Wapachee didn't publicly support the "Paix des braves" deal with Quebec when his turn came to step up and smile for the cameras last year. And now he's paying the price.

No doubt there will be some face-saving explanation that is supposed to spray some Lysol on these bad odours. Something like overstepping his authority, or needing to refine the mandate of the position – bureaucratic words that essentially mean, "We are bullshitting you, but we can get away with it."

What makes the timing of this move so curious is the imminent health deal with the province. What form, one wonders, will the chairmanship take once the Cree have a formal health system that they themselves control? Will it be a democratically elected position, one accountable to the people, as the Cree have with their school board?

Or will it be a lapdog position accountable only to the Grand Council, which will then teach their chair-poodle to roll over and play dead whenever it wants him to?

In the meantime, Bertie Wapachee has been airbrushed out of the picture, just like they used to do in Stalinist Russia. Some charge will likely be dredged up to justify the kangaroo-court treatment he has received. The saving grace will be that he likely won't be sent to the gulag.

More importantly, however, is that a key Cree entity is showing itself to be subject to petty politics at the very time it needs to inspire confidence amongst the people it is supposed to serve.

CONTENTS

NEWS

- 5 New CSB Chair

- 7 La Grande Landslide

BRIEFS

- Bosum, Weistche re-elected

FEATURE

- 10 Guatemala

READERS

- 17 Letter from Cree Construction

- 19 Simon's Mom Sez

- 23 Tribute to Ella

ON THE COVER

Mayan Girl,
San Juan La Laguna
Guatemala, 2003

Photo: Steve Bonspiel
Design: Mona Laviolette

I often wondered how communities and the people who live in reserves managed without having a bar where alcohol is served. I live in a community where there are two bars. When the community of Kuujjuarapik opened the second bar, stories and predictions of the downfall of society rose with a fury but subsided when the drinking at homes lessened and the amount of booze ordered from Radisson went to an all time low.

I come from a so-called 'dry' town, where the bar is over 100 kilometers away in Radisson. A gate was put up and raised the hopes of controlling the flow of alcohol into Chisasibi. This tactic only raised the pressures of individuals to drink even harder and faster! Within two decades, the amount of money spent outside of the community rivaled the amount of funds used to finance small countries. I've compiled a list of pros and cons of why or why not a community should think of having a bar in their town.

Pros

You know where loved ones are at all times

Profits stay in town

Walk to the bar

Owned by community or members

Corporate meetings can be held in town

Bootlegging will drop

If membership driven, you are accountable to them

You are inside and warm during the winter

If you misbehave, you can be barred

You can drink one or two beers

You get to keep your license if you walk
People get to live longer

Profits can go to social programs, sports,
etc...

Cons

No idea where your loved ones are

Profits go south

Drink and drive

Owned by greedy people who don't care
when you leave the bar at closing time

Corporate meetings in town where bars
operate

Bootleggers are kings

You are accountable to no one

Freeze to death

Misbehavior is rampant and ignored

You can drink one or two cases of beer

You can lose everything if you drink and
drive. Unnecessary deaths

Profits go to owners early retirement

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:

 5505 ST-LAURENT, #3018
 MONTREAL, QC, H2T 1S6

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE NATION PRODUCTION OFFICE
 5647 PARC AVE. P.O. BOX 48036
 MONTREAL, CANADA H2V 4S8

EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

ADS- VAL D'OR-CHIBOUGAMAU REGION
 TEL.: 514-285-8986

THE NATION HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC J0M 1E0

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Editorial: nation@beesum.ca

Ads: sales@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds:

beesum@beesum-communications.com

Web: www.beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS: \$45

ABROAD: INDIVIDUALS: \$70 U.S.

ABROAD: INSTITUTIONS: \$85 U.S.

PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

PRINTED BY PAYETTE & SIMMS

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED (C)

PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005

ISSN #1206-2642

THE NATION IS A MEMBER OF:

 THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY, CIRCLE OF
 ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS, CANADIAN MAGAZINE

PUBLISHERS ASSN.

QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS' ASSN

LES HERBOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, THROUGH THE CANADA MAGAZINE

FUND, TO OUR EDITORIAL COSTS



Mianscum: Chairman of the Board



James Bay Cree voters have chosen a new direction for their school board leadership. William Mianscum of Mistissini will be the chairperson of the Cree School Board (CSB) for the next three years after a run-off election with incumbent Mabel Herodier July 31.

Before the run-off election, neither of the two leading candidates had achieved the necessary minimum 50 per cent of the vote (Herodier had 29 per cent of the vote, Mianscum, 28 per cent.) So it came down to the run-off election, which produced a clear result, with Mianscum garnering 55.6 per cent of eligible votes.

For the time being, Mianscum will also retain the titles of Interim Deputy Director General of the CSB, as well as Director of Finance.

Mianscum was quick to credit Herodier, saying they shared many of the same goals. "Our platforms were somewhat similar," Mianscum said. "The success rate or lack thereof of graduating students is a huge concern. Doubling the graduation rate by 2007 is something I will definitely be working towards."

Mianscum also wants to develop the CSB's teacher training program. "I think what we need to do is speed up the process, screen the candidates who are interested in taking teaching as a career, and gear them towards university to get their BAs through that process," he explained. "That way we can get them into the classrooms faster."

Another project Mianscum feels

is vital is the Cree language program. The most notable part of which is the Cree-language CD, released in collaboration with the Cree Programs group of the CSB this past winter. Although he won't be overseeing projects dealing with the language, he fully supports and understands the need to keep the language alive, and make sure it's being passed down to the younger generations.

Mianscum said he is open to collaborating with Herodier on any issues that arise in the future. "We definitely need all those that have experience to come in and help out, including Mabel," he said.

"When I agreed to run, I saw myself as being the person that can influence change. I hope to do that, whether it is in a big way or not remains to be seen. I am definitely able to have influence and an impact on the way change should be taking place, for the better."

Mianscum says he knew the path he was going down would be an arduous one. "I knew I had a big task ahead of me because any time you're in position to un-chair the incumbent in an election it's a lot of work," he stated. "Especially a chairperson that was there and working towards making change."

One of the main things he didn't want was to turn the contest into a coastal vs. inland debate. "I wanted to make sure, and I think Mabel did as well, that people stayed focused on the issues."

Despite this hope, the election turned into exactly that, a coastal vs. inland squabble. Herodier won all coastal ridings, and Mianscum won all inland ridings. The only exception was in Whapmagoostui, where each candidate garnered 23 votes.

Along the way there were a few unfortunate incidents that slowed the momentum of the election. There were a number of deaths in different communities, as well as a death in Mianscum's family.

This could have been one of the reasons for the low turnout at the polls. Fewer than 30 per cent of the eligible voters cast their vote.

"I'd like to thank the people for giving me their confidence – 55 per cent the vote is a pretty strong mandate," Mianscum concluded. "I thank the people for that and I certainly look forward to working with the communities."

Rupert Reverence Nearing Journey's End

This year's Rupert River Reverence canoe brigade started July 26 on the Route du Nord highway and is slated to conclude on August 18 in Waskaganish.

Eric Gagnon, co-president of the Rupert Reverence coalition, along with Diane Reid from Waswanipi, have been paddling along the Rupert River to raise awareness of the plight of this beautiful waterway.

The reverence brigade fears that in a very short time the Rupert will be diverted, and certain parts will be dried up forever.

Gagnon and Reid are doing their part to gather support against the damming of this river, as well as other rivers in the James Bay area.

According to Earthwild International, the Eastmain River is currently ranked second on Canada's most endangered rivers list. The Rupert River was ranked number one on last year's list.

John Tent, who was inspirational in guiding some of the walks and trips via canoe in the past, passed away in early August of cancer. There was a journey from Mistissini to Nemaska in his honour.

Freddy Jolly, who joined the reverence at old Nemaska, went to see John before he died and was handed a paddle and told to bring it on the Rupert Reverence. That way Mr. Tent could be with them throughout the journey, and he hoped that at the same time the Rupert River could be saved.

The reverence journey has not been without incident. Diane Ottereyes Reid from Waswanipi experienced difficulty with the rapids, and had to continue her part of the journey on foot far from the shore. This did not deter her, it only strengthened her resolve to complete her journey.

Then when she got to the Rupert River Bridge, she was informed by Freddy Jolly that one of her best friends, Ella Saganash Gunner, had committed suicide. She chose to keep going rather than attend the funeral, knowing that this is what Ella would have wanted.

Ella had told her that she would be the first to hug her when she was finished her journey on the shores of the Rupert in Waskaganish.

This can no longer happen, but Ella's memory is one of the things that Diane will carry with her, and is going to use to finish the journey.

By Steve Bonspiel



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
 Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Canadian Community Health Survey in Iyiyuuuschii

The Canadian Community Health Survey is a national health survey that collects information from Canadians about their health and well-being, the factors that affect their health and their use of health care services. The Department of Public Health within the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, along with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, arranged with the Institut de la Statistique du Québec (ISQ) and Statistics Canada for a similar study in Iyiyuuuschii. The first of these studies is taking place in August and September.

This survey will assist the newly established Cree Public Health Department to set its priorities for future community health programs and services to better serve the Cree communities. The findings will also be useful to the local and regional Iyiyuu governments.

Interviewers from Statistics Canada are now working in Iyiyuuuschii. They will choose members of your community to answer a survey questionnaire about health issues.

Community survey dates for:

Mistissini, Oujé-Bougoumou and Waswanipi:

August 12-31	Mistissini (survey: 20 days)
Sept 2-6	Oujé-Bougoumou (survey: 5 days)
Sept 8-14	Waswanipi (survey: 7 days)

Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui:

August 12 – Sept 4	Chisasibi (survey: 24 days)
Sept 6-10	Whapmagoostui (survey: 6 days)

Wemindji, Eastmain, and Waskaganish:

August 18-26	Wemindji (survey: 9 days)
August 28 – Sept 3	Eastmain (survey: 5 days)
Sept 5-13	Waskaganish (survey: 10 days)

For further information, you can contact your community Public Health Officer or Jill Torrie (CBHSSJB organizer for the survey) at the Cree Public Health office in Montreal, 514-861-2352, ext. 31



Thanks to everyone in Nemaska
for making this survey such a success!

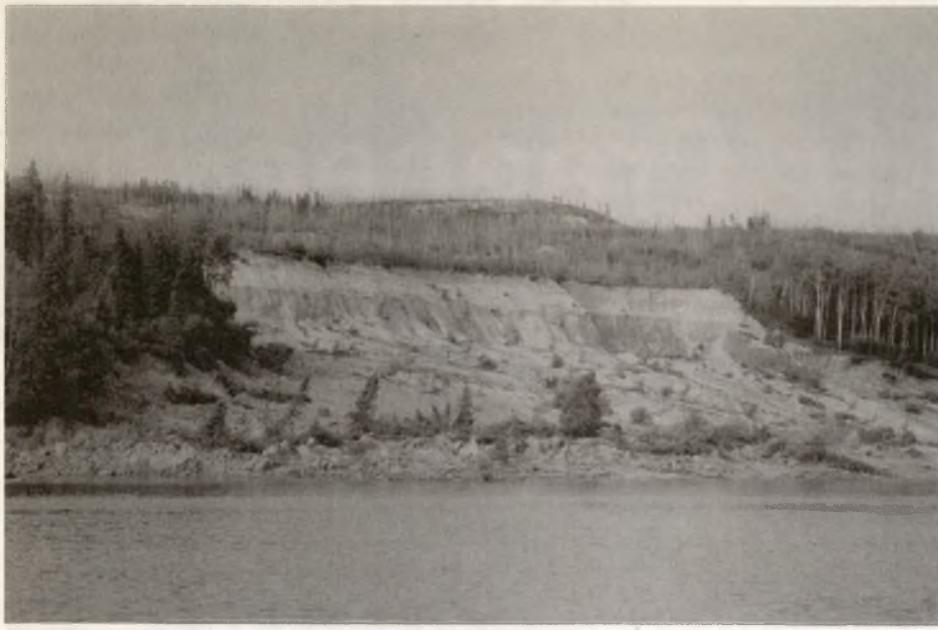


PHOTO BY JIMMY SAM

LANDSLIDE ON LA GRANDE

Muddy water caused by a landslide on the north bank of La Grande River marred Chisasibi's annual gathering on Fort George Island at the beginning of August.

People were forced to bring their own water to the festival because the river water contained levels of silt 100 times greater than allowed in drinking water under Canadian regulations.

According to Chisasibi's water treatment operator, Matthew Chiskamish, people traditionally use the river water at Fort George. But this year the NTU reading (a method of measuring the water's turbidity) reached a level of 50, far higher than the allowable level of 0.5. (The community's drinking water was unaffected because of the town's water treatment plant.)

The landslide occurred sometime before July 30, Chiskamish said. People noticed the water colour becoming cloudy – something that normally happens only in the spring or fall. Hydro-Quebec was notified, and the utility investigated by helicopter, discovering the landslide at a place known locally as Shawksathtin, about 30 to 40 km upriver from the LG-1 dam.

The slide measures 200 feet across at the top and almost double that at the bottom, which is "a really big slide," Chiskamish said. The muddy water in the river did not clear up for five days.

Chisasibi band councillor Eric House says community elders knew something

was about to happen with the river because permafrost was thawing to an unusual degree, while water levels in the river were also much higher than normal at mid-summer.

House notes that Hydro Quebec is conducting tests on two turbines at LG-1 to find the maximum power generating capacity at the facility. "Water levels are only a metre below maximum," he observed.

But House also says deforestation had a role in the slide, pointing to the logging Cree Construction recently completed in the area between LG-1 and LG-2. He believes that would have affected soil stability in the bank of the river.

A landslide in 1979 upriver from the current slide caused much greater damage, House recalls. An island in the river was almost completely swept away, while a smaller tributary was swamped by the resulting tidal wave. "It wiped everything out," House said.

Lyle Stewart

Weistche re-elected in Waskaganish

Robert Weistche was re-elected to a four-year term in the general election held in Waskaganish on August 12, 2003.

Weistche beat out Billy Diamond, who has served as chief of Waskaganish in the past. The final tally was 437 votes for Weistche to 264 votes for Diamond.

"I feel excited, and happy. We won a fair fight, and I feel the overwhelming support from the members of my community. The people have spoken with a message that's very clear," said Weistche.

This will be Weistche's last term as Chief of Waskaganish because the community election codes only allow for a maximum of two terms in office.

There were also 5 candidates elected for a position as councilor according to Raymond Blackned, the returning officer for the election. These candidates include: Roderick Jonah with 348 votes, Ryan Erless with 375 votes, Jack Diamond with 382 votes, Emily Hester with 404 votes, and William T. Hester with 510 votes.

All the councilors that were elected were new to the office, except for William T. Hester. Some of the other former councilors could not run due to term limits.

Weistche's platform was based on "improving the quality of life in the community". That includes being approachable, open and willing to talk to everyone about any issues concerning Waskaganish.

"I will lead the people of Waskaganish to the best of my abilities," said Weistche. **Ouje Stays the Course**

Sam Bosum will serve another term as chief of Ouje-Bougoumou after winning a five-way race August 11.

Bosum received 41 percent or 120 of the 289 votes cast in the general election. Norman Wapachee came in second with 83 votes, followed by Deputy Chief and singer-songwriter Kenny Mianscum with 32 votes. Local Environment Officer Joseph Shecapio Blacksmith and Minnie Wapachee tied with 27 votes.

Elected deputy chief was Sophie Bosum with 178 votes. Rachel Bush garnered 75 yeas while Margaret Wapachee came in third with 36 votes.

Ouje-Bougoumou's new council include former chief and Paix des Braves negotiator Abel Bosum with 168 votes, Lance Cooper (167), former CBC North journalist Gaston Cooper (151), Anna Bosum (123) and Sydney Coonishish (122).

AGA Postponed

The CRA/ GCCQ Annual General Assembly that was to take place in



Air Creebec

*Professional Service
Competitive Rates
Modern Aircrafts*



Your travel choice

For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567

Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca

Waskaganish on August 19 to the 23rd has been postponed due to the death of Grand Chief Ted Moses' son. The yearly Cree nation assembly has been rescheduled for September 9th, 10th and 11th in Waskaganish. No dates were announced for the Special General Assembly on Cree Governance.



PHOTO BY P. LEMAY

Reginald Moses: Rest in Peace

Reginald Moses, the son of Grand Chief Ted Moses passed away in Nemaska on Saturday August 9. Reports say he died of complications from an undiagnosed diabetes condition. The funeral was held Thursday, August 13 in Eastmain.

Reginald at one time worked at the airport in Eastmain and was a talented guitarist who played in a local Eastmain garage band. He was 27 years old. He is survived by his parents, Ted and Elsa, his brothers Donovan and Allan and sister Nian.

MoCreebec Drops Challenge; Seeks Cree Membership

MoCreebec will not challenge the results of last year's Grand Council election after all. As the Nation reported last November, the Quebec Cree community living in northern Ontario was considering launching a court challenge after their members were not offered an opportunity to participate in the vote that narrowly re-elected Grand Chief Ted Moses.

Now, after much debate and legal advice, MoCreebec has decided not to pursue a specific challenge in the courts. Instead, they are considering challenging section 3.2.7 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, which states the eligi-

bility requirements for participation as part of the James Bay Cree nation.

One of the specifics is that if one has been absent for 10 years from the territory, they are no longer eligible to participate.

MoCreebec Chief Randy Kapashesit says this clause is unconstitutional and would like to challenge the interpretation of the section.

"We have given them plenty of time and opportunity to see our point of view," said Kapashesit of the 20-year-disagreement, "but there has been no willingness to go down that road." Adds Kapashesit, "At this point we have not filed anything, we are still working out the finer details."

The 525 members of MoCreebec live in Moose Factory and Moosonee with no distinction as a band and no reserve. They do have a chief and council, with their own constitution, their own membership and their own "creative style" of governing that is reflective of the Cree traditions.

Transmission/Presences 2003

"In order to maintain our presence, Aboriginal artists constantly look back in order to look forward. By navigating through time we revisit the origins of our artistic expression that we now refer to as traditional or cultural. It is from this essential position that we also permit our creativity to be contemporary."

Ryan Rice

Artists Glenna Matoush, Margaret Orr, Sheila Orr and Jean-Pierre Pelchat use the mediums of painting and collage to explore the visual language of aboriginal and western cultures in this exhibit in Val d'Or.

These artists were chosen for the exhibit *Transmissions/Presences 2003* at the Centre d'exposition de Val-d'Or not only because of their common mediums of expression but also because of their common experiences: they have all lived in the Cree communities of the James Bay at one point or another.

Matoush lived in Mistissini for many years, while sisters Margaret and Sheila Orr are from Chisasibi, as is Pelchat.

"Looking back in order to look forward" is a motif that is very apparent in the artistic expressions of the artists involved in this exhibition. That proves true in either the techniques used (Sheila Orr incorporates materials such as moose skin, beads and porcupine quills in her works) or the themes explored (Of land and bear by Margaret Orr was inspired by the relationship between the James Bay Cree and

their territory, tapping into the basis of Aboriginal spirituality).

All of their recent works are drawn from their experiences as natives, inspired by day-to-day experience – bingo, family, transmission of knowledge and community.

The exhibition is currently at the Centre d'exposition de Val-d'Or (600, 7e Rue) in Val-d'Or until August 31st.

New ID cards for Indians

Ottawa will spend \$17-million to modernize identity cards for status Indians in a move to stop widespread fraud it says costs \$62-million a year.

The federal government wants to introduce updated Indian status cards to Canada's 700,000 registered Indians by spring, according to a Department of Indian Affairs report on the project done in April. The report, obtained by Access to Information researcher Ken Rubin, recommends issuing more secure Certificate of Indian Status cards countrywide.

A status card confirms the cardholder as registered by the government of Canada as an Indian within the Indian Registration system. It determines that the person is entitled to federal services and tax exemptions totaling as much as \$8,000 in benefits per year. That includes sales-tax exemptions for goods bought or delivered to reserves, drugs, dental work and eye exams.

The cards also are used as identification for First Nations people seeking entry to the United States. That makes them prized on the black market, where they sell for \$500 to \$1,000, according to a 1999 study for Indian Affairs.

A study commissioned by Indian Affairs in 1993 found that the status cards can be easily copied and that fraud by non-Indian cardholders costs the provincial and federal governments more than \$62-million a year.

Critics said that it is about time the government acted on the earlier report.

"This is a no-choice item," said Canadian Alliance native affairs critic John Duncan. "They're going to have to do it."

Status cards replaced birth certificates in 1951 to identify registered Indians. Use of the cards, which have a photograph but no bar code or embossed number, was expanded over the years to become a ticket for federal and provincial programs.

The current CIS card, which has been in use for more than 15 years, is a laminated paper document. A 2002 report by Indian Affairs found the card "is extremely easy to modify or replicate."

Guatemala: Primal beauty



The world's Indigenous peoples are constantly struggling for recognition of their rights and trying to take control of their future. In Guatemala, the Indigenous peoples realize that this means taking advantage of the natural resources available to them. One of the ways to sustain and develop is through eco-tourism. There are a number of Indigenous businesses which hope that through these ventures, they will create a better life for their families, their towns and their people.

Guatemala is home to over six million Indigenous peoples, and they make up a solid 60 per cent of all inhabitants. Despite these numbers, the natives are at a constant political and economic disadvantage compared to their fellow Guatemalans. The illiteracy rate in some villages is an astonishing 90 per cent as successive white-controlled governments restricted access to basic needs for the Indigenous population.

A Brief history of Guatemala

The main thing that would strike someone visiting Guatemala is how beautifully simplistic it is. People seem to enjoy the way they live, without pretense. Capitalism is thriving in Guatemala, but in a different way than we know it.

In Canada, people measure what you are worth by how much you have and how good you look. Guatemalans don't think about those things as much,

or at least aren't as overtly fanatical about them. Riches come from who you are, not the articles you possess.

Venturing into the mountains (highlands) where most Indigenous peoples live, I was able to witness a people that are even less fortunate than mainstream society, yet are fiercely proud of who they are. Their resolve serves as an inspiration to everyone.

In present day Guatemala, ethnic mixing is prevalent, and more widely accepted than it is in Canada. Most of the people that I met had native blood in them and they weren't talking about their "great, great grandmother being a Mayan princess."

There are no Native reservations in Guatemala and as such there is no protection for the land of the Indigenous peoples. Non-natives from Guatemala City have already started to purchase prime waterfront land for next to nothing in places like San Lucas Tolimán, and Panajachel, located around Lake Atitlan.

There are 23 Indigenous groups located mostly in the highlands, or altiplano, of Guatemala. These "groups" were once considered nations, sovereign and free. These days, the 23 distinct nations are grouped together by the government, as if they didn't have their own identities, language and culture.

To fully appreciate present day Guatemala, one must weigh the affects that racism has had on the population over the years.

Steve Bonspiel recently traveled to Guatemala to study indigenous economic initiatives, eco-tourism projects in particular.

Produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Guatemala has a very violent history; the people still haven't fully recovered from the long and bloody civil war which pitted revolutionary 'rebels' against the oppressive government. The rebels consisted mainly of Indigenous peoples, and were largely supported by the Indigenous villages. The civil war, which was essentially initiated by a dictatorship lashing out at anyone who disagreed with them, lasted 36 years until a peace accord was signed in 1996, and fighting ceased.

The United States had a hand in helping the Guatemalan government crush the "uprising" by supplying weapons and state of the art military helicopters used to attack the highlands.

According to Human Rights Watch, about 200,000, mainly indigenous people, lost their lives. The remains of 440 Maya villages were wiped completely from the map. People still search for their loved ones to this day.

Present day Guatemala

When visiting Guatemala today, one could hardly guess that as recently as seven years ago, this country was in utter chaos.

The economy is stronger than it's ever been and foreign conglomerates have become more inclined to invest in the country's businesses.

At first glance, one would think that the city was owned by commercial enterprises, and that Pepsi was the principal shareholder. Everywhere you look, you can see something that reminds you of home, from billboards to advertising, to brand names. At times, it almost felt like I was in a third world Time's Square.

The lack of emission standards for vehicles is something the capital city needs to work on. Black smoke billows from the mufflers of most cars and buses, and no one seemed to notice or care. Also, a large number of the buildings would not pass the standards set by most Canadian cities' building codes and should be torn down.

The cost of living is considerably less than in Canada. This is due in large part to the fact that wages are so low. Much like the situation in Quebec, doctors are leaving Guatemala in droves to work in other countries, including Canada.

Indigenous representation in the political arena is increasing. The mayor of Quetzaltenango is Mayan, while one of the candidates running for president is also indigenous.

Indigenous economy

At times, the economic prospects of the indigenous peoples in most countries are very limited. This is especially true for the Native population of Guatemala. Eco-tourism is in its infancy here, but things are beginning to look brighter.

The Indigenous struggle for recognition is very similar in Guatemala as it is to native peoples struggles in Canada. In some endeavors like eco-tourism and sustainable development, Guatemala's native people are further ahead than our own. In other endeavors like casinos, online gaming, and money raising projects, they are light years behind. The following are some projects that are struggling to succeed in a globalized economy.



Quirky Guatemala Facts

- Rodrigo Asturias, a former Guerrilla who fought against the government, is running for president on November 9th.
- Guatemala was the deciding vote in 1945 at meetings held in an international forum to recognize Israel as a country.
- There are 28 volcanoes in Guatemala, some of which are still active.
- Lawyers make around \$800 US a month in Guatemala, and Doctors make between \$12-1400 US a month.
- Police officers start off with 100 bullets, after that they have to pay for their own.
- In San Juan La Laguna, when there is a municipal meeting scheduled, the representatives who take part in the meeting must put their walking sticks on the mayors desk in order for him to know who's present, so the meeting can proceed.
- Rigoberta Menchu, accepted the Nobel peace prize in 1992 on behalf of all Indigenous peoples. She is Maya Quiche, and was the first and only Native person to be recognized on an International scale through the Nobel Prize.
- In a place called cocos (coconuts) we stopped on the side of the road and tasted fresh coconut juice straight from the coconut. Once we finished, the guy chopped it up for us and we ate it. It was delicious.
- If you see a branch in the middle of the road, it's probably not by accident. In the highlands, that is what they use instead of cones to warn people of a traffic accident.



CHIBOUGAMAU
AUTOMOBILE



859, 3ième Rue
Chibougamau Qc.
G8P 1R1

**"UNE ÉQUIPE D'ICI
POUR DES GENS D'ICI"**



Sales & Services Department

Tel: (418) 748-2634 Fax: (418) 748-4055

e-mail: chibougamau@gmcanada.com
www.chibougamau.gmcanada.com



Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie
Δᓂጀ የጀ ደጀጀጀ



*Best Wishes
&
Congratulations!
to William Mianscum
for his election to the position
of Chairman of the
Cree School Board!*

Indigenous art gallery - Tecpan

Benjamin Gonzalez is the manager of an indigenous art gallery in Tecpan. The gallery is run out of his home, and he represents 11 artists who are struggling for exposure at the national and international levels. He has worked with artists for over 25 years.

One of the problems incurred by the gallery was dealing with knock-offs. The gallery would release postcards with a sample of what their paintings looked like, and then the rip-off artists would proceed to copy them onto a canvas, and release them as original paintings.



The gallery has since changed their approach towards knock-offs. Since there is essentially nothing they can do about it, they've chosen to look on the bright side and feel that these fakes are actually creating broader exposure for their work. They encourage people to contact them if they want to get their hands on the original. Along with the painting comes a certification stating that the painting is indeed an original.

In the past, the artists have showcased their work in places like Houston, Miami, Mexico and Costa Rica. The funding for these exhibits is raised through private support; with the balance coming from the artist's own pockets.

Together, these artists produce 300 paintings per year, with sales ranging from \$30 to \$1,000 US. The price depends on the type of paint used (oil, water), as well as the size of the painting.

Even though all of the revenue generated from sales goes directly to the artist, they usually don't sell enough to support the artist's family. Therefore, they often have to do other things to make ends meet, like running a small store or making handicrafts.

At the time of my visit, construction had begun to enlarge the gallery and make it more appealing to tourists. It should be completed before next summer.

Aj Quen training centre - Chimaltenango

One of the more solid projects associated with native development in Guatemala was Aj Quen. It serves as a training centre for over 800 individuals in 27 different communities who are involved in the export of indigenous handicrafts. These groups represent four different nations (K'iche, Kaqchikel, Achi, Qeqchi).

Everyone involved is of native origin, from administration to the workers themselves. Presently, 88 per cent of the employees are women. Up until two years ago, there had only been women elected to the director's position.

The organization has been around for 15 years, and has exported such handicrafts as handbags, wallets, pottery and blankets to a number of countries around the world, including Belgium, Italy, Finland, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.S. and Canada.

The problem that has arisen in recent years is how to make the products more appealing to different export markets. This has proven to be very difficult. A large percentage of the new types of crafts being produced are not accepted. The countries reject the crafts because of the colours, or the style, or sometimes the item itself. These setbacks cost time and money and have been a major sticking point.

Representatives from some of the aforementioned countries are planning to visit Guatemala to help with quality control and design selection. Aj Quen hopes that by this time next year, the operation will be running a lot smoother.

Foreign investment from these countries helps to sustain the business. Without it, Aj Quen would not be able to pay its employees, or lend them money when they need to buy supplies. Holland and Germany have combined to donate almost \$100,000 US this year alone.

Other countries have been more cautious with their donations, preferring to wait and see what kind of new designs Aj Quen comes up with, and if their markets will accept them.

One of the realities that Aj Quen has to deal with is local competition. Currently, there are 25 other native organizations producing and exporting similar products abroad.

They would like to have some kind of association with the other organizations. That would mean a sharing of



PARC SAFARI

PACKAGE

NEW!

- NOAH'S ARK
- 150 NEWBORN
- NEW AMUSEMENT PARK
- NEW SHOWS

www.parcsafari.com

THE SAFARI PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- One day admission to PARC SAFARI
- One night at the hotel or camping of your choice

Only 30 minutes South of Montreal!
Hemmingford, QC, A-15, Exit 6

SELECT A HOTEL OR CAMPING OF YOUR CHOICE

	COUUPLE	FAMILY
Camping Lac Cristal, St-Bernard-de-Lacolle (6 minutes of Parc Safari)	(450) 246-3773	84 \$
Camping Grégoire (Beach), Lacolle	(450) 246-3385	85 \$
Camping Coolbreeze, St-Bernard-de-Lacolle (5 km of Parc Safari)	(450) 246-3785	85 \$
Motel Pavillon J.P., St-Bernard-de-Lacolle (500 feet of Parc Safari) 450-247-2346	1 800 644-2346	94 \$
Motel Resto-Bar le Douglas, Napierville	1 888 690-3363	125 \$
Auberge Relais 4 Saisons, Noyan (15 minutes of Parc Safari)(1)	1 877 294-2677	134 \$
Relais Gouverneur, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu	1 800 667-3815	*134 \$
Days Inn Brossard	1 800 565-2186	140 \$
Auberge Harris (suite 45 \$ or more), St-Jean-sur-Richelieu (Breakfast incl.)	1 800 668-3821	144 \$
Comfort Inn Brossard	450 678-9350	144 \$
Comfort Inn St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, (Breakfast incl.)	1 888 825-4466	*149 \$
Hôtel Dauphin Montréal-Longueuil, (Breakfast incl.)	1 866 646-0110	155 \$
Hôtel Plaza Valleyfield, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield	1 877 882-8818	150 \$
Hôtel Gouverneur Ile Charron Montréal, Longueuil	1 888 910-1111	164 \$
Radisson Hôtel Longueuil-Montréal (Near of métro Longueuil)	1 800 493-7303	177 \$

Including one night lodging for double or quadruple occupancy and admission to PARC SAFARI. Valid from May to September, 2003. According availability. Plus taxes. 2 nights available * Rates from.

(1) Breakfast included on week.

WE PROMISE A MAGICAL DAY!

Aboriginal communities and businesses are faced with many challenges and opportunities.

BDO understands your needs and we want to work with you.

Call us today and let's discuss how we can help you succeed.

- Strategic Planning • IT Services • Accpac Solutions
- Financial Advisory Services • Audit and Accounting

514-931-0841 • 1-800-319-4933 • www.bdo.ca



BDO Dunwoody
Chartered Accountants and Consultants



Gilles Coté
Sales Representative



Tél: (418) 548-0821 I (800) 830-0821
Téléc: (418) 548-0921
2595, Godbout, Jonquière (Québec) G7S 5B1

knowledge, as well as sharing different contacts. Essentially, Aj Quen sees the competition as healthy and it helps to contribute to their overall goal, which is promotion of their indigenous cultures, and bettering the lives of Guatemala's original peoples.

Aside from exportation, they also have a few stores spread across the country. One of the more prominent ones, Semaco, is based in Guatemala City. Aj Quen feels that stores like these are just as important as exporting to other countries, even if it means selling their products for less.

In order to be accepted as a working group associated with Aj Quen and be part of their export circle, certain guidelines have to be followed. It's expected that the group consist of at least eight members and then they must agree to participate in any training courses given by Aj Quen.

Once the group has been accepted, they start producing selected handicrafts as soon as the orders come in. The financial breakdown is set as follows: 65 per cent of the profits go to the manufacturers, Aj Quen receives the remaining 35 per cent (of which up to 10 per cent goes into a security fund).

The security fund is used to lend to groups starting out, or to groups who receive large orders and don't have the funds necessary to purchase supplies in bulk.

Presently, the organization accounts for one per cent of the world market for this type of export business. They are hoping to drastically increase that market share, although there is no set target.



Be sure to pick up a copy of the next Nation in two weeks time, where we'll conclude our look at Guatemala's indigenous eco tourism ventures.

Beesum Communications and The Nation Magazine would like to acknowledge that this story was produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Without them, this story would not have been possible.

Adventure Life travel: What an experience!

Adventure Life is committed to providing quality small group tours that have a positive impact on the local culture and environment. Groups are rarely larger than twelve, and each tour is designed by the company's founder with the goal of providing a fun and exciting holiday, while creating a better understanding between travelers and our wonderful hosts.

Everyone acknowledges the two sides of conservation -ecological and cultural- but little attention is paid to the latter. Adventure Life believes it is critical that local people be made active partners in developing a local tourism industry. Money generated by tourism should stay in the community. This means hiring local guides, staying in locally owned hotels, and using the local transportation infrastructure - issues that have been at the heart of our travel philosophy from the beginning.

The following are the location (s) of operations: Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos, Chile, Bolivia, Belize, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

At **Adventure Life**, our first love is travel and it shows in our exciting and unique tours. With more than 30 adventures in South & Central America, we explore local culture, ecology and life from remote villages, to bustling city markets, to the wildest jungles and mountains.

Call **Adventure Life** now to reserve your place in our next adventure!

Adventure Life, LLC
1655 S 3rd St W, Ste 1
Missoula, MT 59801

<http://www.adventure-life.com>
1-800-344-6118 U.S.
406-541-2677 outside the U.S.
406-541-2676 Fax





Commission scolaire
de la Baie-James

*Pour des services professionnels
adaptés à vos besoins !*

*For professional services
adapted to your needs !*

La Commission scolaire de la Baie-James est fière d'être partenaire de la Commission scolaire Crie et de participer à la formation des populations autochtones vivant sur le territoire nord québécois.

The Commission scolaire de la Baie-James, is proud to be a Cree School Board's partner and participate at the education and training for the First Nations living in Northern Quebec.

*Several trainings have
been dispensed :*

- ▶ Sciege à Waswanipi;
- ▶ Tenue de livres à Chibougamau
- ▶ Boucherie à Mistissini
- ▶ Secourisme à Mistissini
- ▶ Conduite de camions à Chibougamau
- ▶ Mécanique automobile à Wemindji
- ▶ Mécanique de véhicules légers à Waskaganish
- ▶ Menuiserie-Charpenterie à Waswanipi

- ▶ Sawing in Waswanipi
- ▶ Book-keeping in Chibougamau
- ▶ Butcher shop in Mistissini
- ▶ First aid in Mistissini
- ▶ Truck driving in Chibougamau
- ▶ Automobile mechanics in Wemindji
- ▶ Light vehicles mechanics in Waskaganish
- ▶ Carpentry in Waswanipi

**Plusieurs formations
ont déjà été dispensées :**

- ▶ Sciege à Waswanipi;
- ▶ Tenue de livres à Chibougamau
- ▶ Boucherie à Mistissini
- ▶ Secourisme à Mistissini
- ▶ Conduite de camions à Chibougamau
- ▶ Mécanique automobile à Wemindji
- ▶ Mécanique de véhicules légers à Waskaganish
- ▶ Menuiserie-Charpenterie à Waswanipi

Contactez-nous ! Contact us !

(418) 748-7621, ext. 2227



Commission scolaire
de la Baie-James



CRTC PUBLIC NOTICE/ AVIS PUBLIC DU CRTC Canada

3. BAIE JAMES (formerly Radisson) (CHAMPION CAMP AND LG2 CAMP), Qc. NORTHEAST SOCIAL CLUB requests authority to renew the licence of the radiocommunication undertaking CIHA-FM, CIHQ-FM Champion Camp and CIGA-FM Camp LG2 serving the above-mentioned locations expiring 30 November 2003. EXAMINATION OF APPLICATION: Hydro-Quebec Business Office, LG-2 Camp, Radisson, Qc. If you wish to support or oppose an application, write to the Secretary General, CRTC, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0N2. You may also file your intervention by fax at (819) 994-0218 or by e-mail at: procedure@crtc.gc.ca. Your comments must be received at the CRTC on or before 27 August 2003 and MUST include the proof that you sent a copy to the applicant. For more information: 1-877-249-CRTC (Toll-free) or Internet: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca>. Reference document: Public Notice CRTC 2003-39.

3. BAIE JAMES (auparavant Radisson) (CAMP CHAMPION ET CAMP LG2) (Qc). CLUB SOCIAL DU NORD-EST demande l'autorisation de renouveler la licence de l'entreprise de radiocommunication CIHA-FM, CIHQ-FM Camp Champion et CIGA-FM Camp LG2 desservant les endroits susmentionnés qui expire le 30 novembre 2003. EXAMEN DE LA DEMANDE : Bureau d'affaires d'Hydro-Québec, Camp LG-2, Radisson (Qc). Si vous voulez appuyer ou vous opposer à une demande, vous pouvez écrire à la Secrétaire générale, CRTC, Ottawa (Ont.) K1A 0N2. Vous pouvez également soumettre votre intervention par fax au (819) 994-0218 ou par courriel au: procedure@crtc.gc.ca. Vos commentaires doivent être reçus par le CRTC au plus tard le 27 août 2003 et DOIVENT inclure la preuve qu'une copie a été envoyée au requérant. Pour plus d'information: 1-877-249-CRTC (sans frais) ou Internet: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca>. Document de référence: Avis public CRTC 2003-39.

Centre de Rénovation



**Home
hardware**

**The answer to
all your construction
material needs,
renovations
and decorations**

**BRETON &
THIBAULT**
Itée

Construction Material

115, rue Gamble Ouest, Rouyn-Noranda (Quebec) J9X 2R5
Tel: (819) 797-4949 • Fax: (819) 797-1995 • (819) 797-4838



**Congratulations
to William Mianscum
for his hard work
and determination
on being elected
Chairperson
of the
Cree School Board!**



Whapmagoostui First Nation

Open letter to the Cree Nation: August 10, 2003

I am writing to all of the shareholders of Cree Construction and Development Company. Ultimately, each and every beneficiary of the JBNQA is part owner of CCDC. I will not deny that CCDC has had some turbulent times. However, it must be stressed that the company is improving with each and every day that passes. Since the beginning of my term as President, I have made every effort to build the company into a leading company, not only in Eeyou Istchee but in Quebec as well.

As President, it is my responsibility to implement the mission statement and act in the best interest of the shareholders. With that responsibility comes the need to make difficult decisions as some that I have had to make in the past. Terminating the employment of an individual, especially a Cree, is not a decision that is taken lightly and I always look for solutions before taking such actions. In addition to searching for solutions and other options, I must consider the needs of the company, employees, and shareholders. All decisions taken are to maximize the benefits to the Cree Nation.

Last June, I was provided with a list of demands from a few employees. Some of those demands were already satisfied. My management team and I were already in the process of evaluating the remaining demands. Due to the sensitive nature of actions required to satisfy the remaining demands, we had to conduct our investigation with the utmost discretion. It is not the policy of CCDC to publicize personnel issues but rather deal with them in a professional manner. Furthermore, we had to plan a course of action that would ensure that the operations of the company did not suffer.

In order to ensure that such incidents do not happen again, my management team and I will be travelling to the EM-I worksite on a regular basis. We will talk with employees and listen to them and their needs. We will not react to rumors but rather determine the exact circumstances, evaluate options and, if necessary, implement solutions.

As President of Cree Construction and Development Company, I will do everything in my power to build CCDC so that our company can be the pride of the Cree Nation and provide returns to the shareholders such as employment, training and returns to CREECO. Building a company is a process and will not happen overnight but it will happen. With the continued support of the CCDC board members and the members of the Board of Compensation, we will succeed.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every employee who has contributed to Cree Construction, all sub-contractors, Board members and other Crees who have taken an interest in our company.

Yours truly,
William MacLeod
President

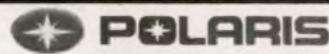
NOW OPEN IN CHIBOUGAMOU

**Freedom, adventure and fun-
now on sale**



World's best-riding 4x4

Powerful Polaris 500 High Output engine.
Smooth-riding independent long-travel (9.5") rear suspension with 11.25" ground clearance.
World's best-selling automatic transmission (PVT).



POLARIS

Jos Besson Chibougamou
882 3rd Street, Chibougamou, QC
(418) 748-1166

JOB POSTING



Customer Service Representative Permanent - Val-d'Or

JOB SUMMARY

The Customer Service Representative will work in a fast-paced call centre environment taking in-bound calls from residential customers. He/she will be responsible for answering queries about products, service, billing, complaints, and other company related information. The incumbent will also be responsible for generating revenues by promoting and selling the company's products and services at every opportunity.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Secondary school degree and/or an equivalent combination of education and related experience.
- Experience in a customer service environment is an asset
- Previous sales experience is an asset
- Knowledge of Télécédé on-line systems an asset
- Knowledge of Télécédé products & services an asset
- Bilingualism (English/Cree and or French/Cree)

SKILLS

- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent telephone skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including: listening, probing, questioning, negotiating and conflict resolution skills
- Sound problem-solving and decision making skills
- Good keyboarding skills essential
- Computer experience with Microsoft Word is an asset
- Excellent planning and organizational skills required

ABILITY

- To work different shifts and to work extra hours as required, on short notice, to meet customer commitments.
- Although part of a team, ability to work independently, with minimal supervision
- Work in a fast paced, continually changing call centre environment
- Provide quality service and ensure total customer satisfaction at all times
- Successfully complete initial five to six week training session as well as any other training programs required by the position

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package and are committed to the principles of employment equity.

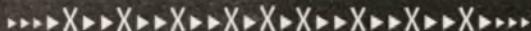
Expected starting date September 15, 2003.

Applicants should email their resumes to nkelly@telebec.com or mail them to the following address by **September 3, 2003:**

Télécédé

Director general First Nations Business Relations
555, ave Centrale, Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 1P6

Tél.: 1-800-567-6485 ext.7000



JOB POSTING

Installation & Repair Technician 2 positions available Permanent - Chisasibi & Mistissini

Job Summary

Selected candidates will be responsible for installing, repairing, replacing, modifying and maintaining telecommunications systems and equipment used by residential and business customers.

Duties

- Install, move, remove, repair, replace, modify and maintain voice and data transmission equipment in compliance with existing standards, work methods and directives.
- Organize his/her daily workload, go over assigned work tickets, establish an itinerary, contact customers and, if the job involves business facilities, sometimes provide an estimate.
- Train customers with the operation of the telecommunications equipment at the time of installation while also promoting the company's other products and services.
- Check the circuit with an appropriate test set and do preventive maintenance.
- Install cabling and wiring and make all the connections, terminations, and hook-ups needed for the equipment to operate properly.
- Define, modify, move or delete all programming parameters for the communication ports and network equipment, and update the relevant databases accordingly.
- Communicate with specialized staff in order to resolve certain difficulties and obtain or relay pertinent information.
- Handle, transport, set, adjust and use the tools, equipment, materials and vehicles needed to carry out the work, ensure their proper maintenance and keep all work sites clean. File pertinent information and keep the group's inventory up to date.
- Fill out various forms and draft reports pertaining to his/her work.
- Be available to travel, handle emergencies and meet other customer demands.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Minimum Requirements

- Secondary school degree
- Basic training in electronics
- Be willing to receive training in telecommunication equipment, installation and repair (1,800 hrs) and receive diploma.
- Proficiency in the use of computer tools
- Driver's licence and vehicle
- Bilingualism (French Cree or English Cree)
- Normal colour vision

Candidate profile - Competencies/behaviour:

- Strong analytical and research skills in technical and computer-related fields
- Ability to communicate and interact effectively with customers
- Ability to represent the company in dealings with customers
- Ability to work effectively on ladders or poles
- Strong planning and organizational skills
- Courtesy and ability to work safely, precisely and quickly
- Autonomy and self-motivated

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package and are committed to the principles of employment equity.

Expected starting date September 15, 2003.

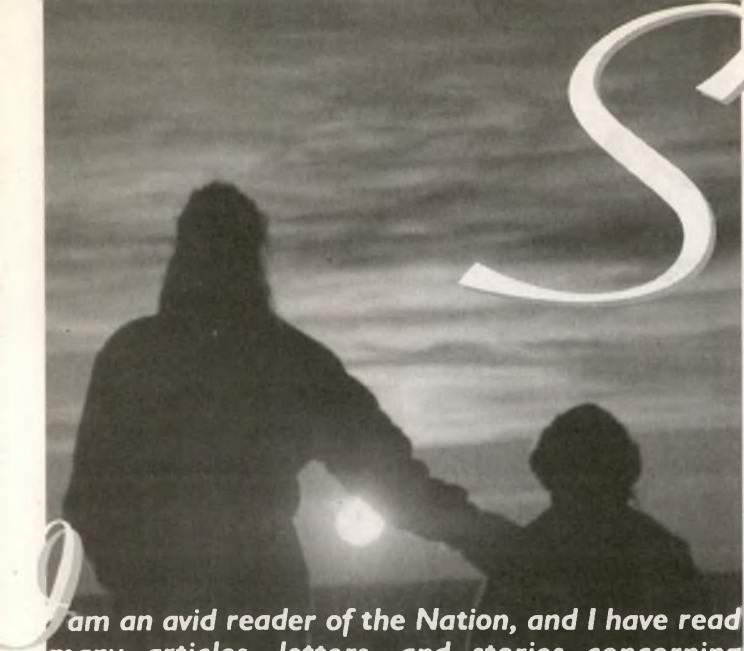
Applicants should email their resumes to nkelly@telebec.com or mail them to the following address by **September 3, 2003:**

Télécédé

Director general First Nations Business Relations
555, ave Centrale 1er étage, Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 1P6

Tél.: 1-800-567-6485 ext.7000





Simon's Story

I am an avid reader of the Nation, and I have read many articles, letters, and stories concerning important issues such as the Paix des Braves, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, etc. But, I noticed that I had never seen anyone write about special needs children. I know that there are many of them out there. These victims of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and so on, all have a voice and that is why we see so many articles about them. What about these children, such as my son? Who is their voice?

I am a mother of a very special 3 year old boy, who is most likely, autistic. It was just recently that it was thought that he had this condition, and showed symptoms of this. I knew a long time ago that something was not right. I started having worries, when his first birthday came and went and he still hadn't started walking yet. It wasn't until he was 18 months old that he started walking on his own. I just thought to myself, 'well, he is just a little behind, that's all.' But by the time his second birthday came, he still hadn't spoken a word and I became more concerned. I voiced my concerns to my son's doctor in August 2001. He said that my son would have to be seen by the pediatrician on his next visit to our community. He too was also concerned by his speech delay. I waited and waited.

At the end of January 2002, I happened to be at the local clinic with my other son, when I saw that the pediatrician was there. I asked the nurse if my oldest son was on the list to see the pediatrician because I had not received a call from the clinic. My son was not on the list, so the nurse then put him on as a special case, and we saw the pediatrician a couple of days later. From then on, things progressed more quickly. We were off to Montreal in the beginning of April for the first round of testing. On August 18th we will be there again to confirm the autism.

I felt very strongly to write about my son and share his story, I am also hoping it will raise awareness towards these special children. Parents and health care professionals ought to be more sensitive towards the needs and abilities of these children.

My hope is for parents will look out for warning signs or delays in their children's development. Even if you think that it is nothing and you don't think it's worth telling the doctor, tell them! It

will be better in the long run. I wish I had said something sooner. Remember, you as a parent are your child's best advocate, and the one who knows your child best. You have to fight for their rights and their well being.

My son Simon is quite lucky, he has attended daycare since last August and has received much help from the educators there, for which my family and I will be forever grateful. I am also thankful for the 'buddies' my son has made at daycare. One of my fears was that he would be teased, but his friends are always there to help him when he needs it. There are different services that you can turn to and request assistance. There's your local clinic, social services, school and daycare. The daycare has become an important part of our lives.

At the moment, Simon is making progress, he seems to understand more, has uttered a few words off and on, and seems to be on the verge of speaking. He's about to start school this month. His future is looking brighter to me, even though so much is yet unknown.

So the next time you come across such a child, take the time to see what wonderful people they are deep inside. It may seem that they don't listen to you, but they are listening and they do have feelings, so take the time to speak and listen to them.

Thanks to the people who have made a difference and have supported Simon and our families, my colleague at the Wemindji Police Force, the nurses and doctors, the daycare educators. A special thanks to Simon's grandparents who give us hope, endless support and love. We would not have made it this far if it wasn't for you. We love you all. Thanks also to my other son Dakota who, in his own way, helps his older brother. Simon learns from him.

Every now and then, when things are tough, I still feel like I am alone and no one understand how I feel. I wrote this article to show those parents out there that they're not alone, there is help and love out there.

This is dedicated to one of the most exceptional and unique people in my life, my son Simon Joseph William Natawapineskum-Jonah. You are my strength, my hope, and my hero. I am so proud of you! Good luck in school. I love you Simonsh!

Your mother and greatest admirer,
Isabelle Natawapineskum

Congratulations

to the Newly Elected Chairman

of the Cree School Board.

We wish you the best in all efforts

regarding our Children's Education.



Chief Robert Weistche

Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation



WELL DONE WILLIAM MIANSCUM

A VAST CHOICE OF NEW AND USED VEHICLES



0%
financing



GMC



Optimum
VÉHICULES D'OCCASION



PONTIAC
BUICK
GMC



GM

AUBÉ...
Pontiac Buick

50, 4ieme Avenue Val d'Or, Qc, J9P 1G1

Tel: (819) 825-6440

Fax: (819) 825-2441

Louis Aubin

Sales Representative for the Cree territories

Tel: (819) 825-6440 • Cell: (819) 856-8875

73, Rue Iberville, Radisson, Qc, J0Y 2X0

Tel: (819) 638-7292

Fax: (819) 638-7294

aubepontiac@gmcanada.com

www.aubepontiac.qc.ca

A Celebration of Heiltsuk Art and Culture



If you are going to be in downtown Montreal in the next couple of months, you should consider checking out a unique art exhibit at the McCord Museum, located on Sherbrooke St. Entitled "Kaxlaya Gvilas," meaning "the ones who uphold the laws of our ancestors," it showcases the past and present art of the Heiltsuk nation, who reside on BC's central coast. There is no Heiltsuk word for "art" because it is seen as something that is inextricably connected with the culture, traditions, territories and resources. The title was chosen to reflect the importance of this interconnection. The first exhibition of Heiltsuk art, it has been touring Canada since June, 2000, with Montreal's McCord Museum its final stop. After October 5, it returns to Bella Bella, BC.

What makes this exhibit so unique is that the voice of the exhibit is not that of the museum. Nearly every text consists of a quotation, statement or comment by a Heiltsuk person. Also, unlike most exhibitions of First Nations art, which display either artifacts or modern artworks, this one intermixes both historical and contemporary works. It was the wish of the Heiltsuk nation that the exhibit make evident the survival and vitality of Heiltsuk culture today. The exhibit is the result of a collaborative effort between the Heiltsuk tribal council, the Heiltsuk Cultural Education Centre, the Royal Ontario Museum and the Royal British Columbia Museum.

"The exhibit is about the strength and resilience of the Heiltsuk people, the importance of our culture, the teaching of our young so they will not forget the struggles of our ancestors, and it is about the unique and beautiful Heiltsuk art," says Pam Brown, the exhibit's curator and a member of the Heiltsuk Nation.

The exhibit includes introductory statements from the Heiltsuk tribal council and offers an historical overview, with a discussion of the impact of European contact on the Heiltsuk. As one Heiltsuk quotation explains, "These are our riches, these are our treasures."

The historical works were collected between 1899 and 1906 by a Methodist Missionary who lived amongst the Heiltsuk. Richard Whitfield Large sent over 284 artifacts from Bella Bella to the Ontario Provincial Museum during a time when it was thought Native culture was becoming extinct. Large commissioned and purchased almost all the artifacts because he thought they were representative of a fading way of life. However, the contemporary works attest to the fact that, as one Heiltsuk Chief put it, "our culture never died."

The Heiltsuk Nation is located at the centre of the Northwest Coast. The descendants of the original Heiltsuk tribes live at Bella Bella (Waglisla), a community of about 1,500 people today. (From a pre-contact population of about 20,000 people, their numbers dwindled to just over 200 in the early part of the 20th century.) The original Heiltsuk-speaking tribes inhabited the outer islands, protected inland waterways and mainland fiords of the central coast between Rivers Inlet and Milbanke Sound. The Haisla, Oweekeno, Coast Tsimshian, Haida, Bella Coola and Kwakiutl nations are all Heiltsuk neighbours. This geographic centrality is mirrored by a cultural one: Heiltsuk ceremonialists, canoe makers and artists were widely known and greatly influential among their coast neighbours. Despite this central position and significance of the Heiltsuk, relatively little is known about their art and culture. Books and exhibitions about northwest coast art, culture, society and history have dealt with the Heiltsuk minimally, if at all. This can partly be explained because of biased concerns by scholars about "cultural authenticity and tradition." While the original Heiltsuk did live "traditional" lifestyles, when the Hudson's Bay Company established a fort on Campbell Island, a Heiltsuk village grew around it. After the devastating smallpox epidemic of the 1860s, the remnants of the tribes gradually amalgamated in what is now known as Bella Bella.

In 1880, the Methodist church made Bella Bella its base for mission work on the central coast. Outwardly the community came to resemble a European style town. It was promoted by the Methodist church and the Canadian Government as "a model for native modernization and assimilation." Yet the culture continued to thrive. Bella Bella people adapted and appropriated selected aspects of Euro-Canadian culture to their own changing needs. Many practices were forced underground, including ceremonial dances and the potlatch, which was outlawed by the federal government from the late 19th century until 1951.

Today, the Heiltsuk nation is striving to retain its lands and culture. They never surrendered their aboriginal rights or title and leaders are struggling to address the land question. They have maintained close ties to their land and resources. The language (Hailzaqvia) has survived and is taught in school. "We live in a different society now," said Robert Hall of the Heiltsuk Nation. "We've come full circle and our people again have the opportunity to learn the art and the language. The next generation will get strength from what we have acquired. Our children will tell the story."

Waswanipi Healing & Wellness Gathering

"Healing of the Wounded Soul"

August 29, 30, 31



Special Speakers:

Sam & Minnie Awashish
Kahienes Sky
Ed Sackaney
Robbie & Sally Matthew
Joseph Jolly

Healing & Recovery Workshop

Alcohol & Drug Abuse, Nutrition & Diabetes,
Suicide intervention, Grief & Loss, Sexual
Abuse, Traditional Child upbringing,
Gambling Addiction, Co-dependency &
Treatment, Self respect, Rights and more

The Healing Gathering will take place at the
traditional Cultural Village. Waswanipi Seebee...
Everyone is Welcomed!

Entertainment & Comedy Night:

Henry Dickson
Regional & Local Performers & Much More

Accomodations:

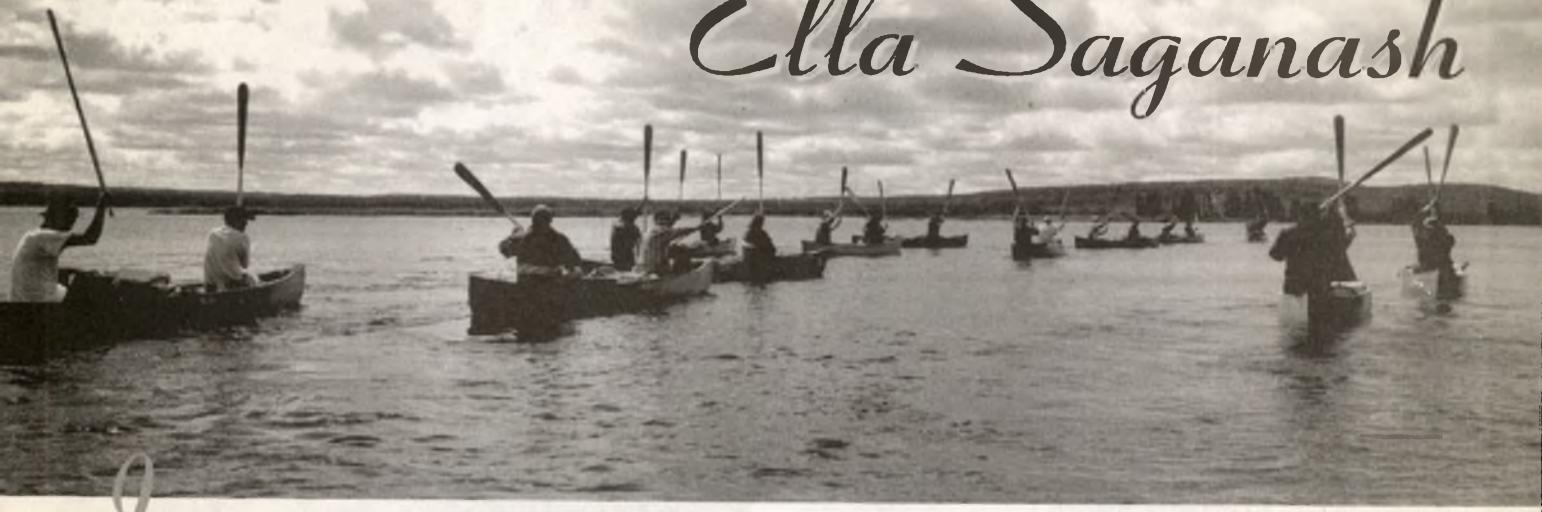
Emily Mianscum 819-753 2810

Contact Persons:

Sarah Ottereyes 819-753 2810
Dorothy Dixon 819-753-2810
Fax: 819-753-2727

A tribute to a dear friend

Ella Saganash



arrived on the shore of Rupert's River after four days of canoeing to protect Rupert's River from further development, only to receive the sad news of my dear friend's departure from this world. I cried when I heard the news, but I remembered her last words, "Don't ever give up, no matter what, go all the way and I'll be waiting for you on the shores in Waskaganish. I want to be the first one to greet you, and say, 'You did it'!"

Ella was my rebel sister in residential school. She and I refused to be silenced in using our language. And it seems we always got into trouble for it. She was my inspiration in determination and perseverance. We went to high school together defending the right for Native students to take their places in society and in school.

Despite her trials and tribulation of life, she always had a humorous outlook on everything. She and I loved to go to feasts and to share time with people out on the land. She loved listening to storytelling of elders along with the history of our people. She loved to take pictures of community events as well as social and cultural activities. When she went back to school to take women's studies, she realized she enjoyed research on the history of our people and that she wanted to gather stories from elders so that we could write a book one day.

Her greatest pride was her children she was able to raise despite all the difficulties she went through in

life. She said that her outlook on life changed greatly when she had grandchildren and she knew that she had to prepare a time when she would be a true Grandmother and share storytelling and legends to them. She spoke often about her children and her grandchildren and how dear they were to her heart.

I was torn between being at her funeral and continuing on the canoe trip, but I remembered her words: "Do not give up, no matter what!" I know, as I continue on the Rupert's River I will remember the friendship, the laughter, the jokes, but most of all, the intimate sharing of our personal life, encouraging and supporting one another as women. She will remain in my heart as a true and loving friend. So it is in her memory that I will paddle the Rupert's River all the way to Waskaganish. I know I will hear her voice full of laughter and humour, which were the greatest part of her personality. To all the family, children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters and her parents, Christine and Allen Saganash, I send my prayers and deepest sympathies to you all.

And to all her friends, we will share incredible fond memories of our time with her. Great journey to the spirit world my dear friend, Ella. I will miss you. I will miss our sunset rides together to talk about life. I will always have you in my heart, forever friends.

*With all my love, your lifetime friend,
Dianne Reid*



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
REGISTER HOME NURSE
HOME & COMMUNITY CARE
KASHECHEWAN FIRST NATION**

General Description

The Home Care Nurse is responsible for providing community based acute care nursing services, and this under the direct supervision of the H&CC. The Home Care Nurse uses his or her teaching assessment and nursing skills to assist clients to attain their optimum level of independent functioning. All Home Care Nurses are involved in the delivery of acute home care nursing services, focusing on diabetes and related issues, however, additional areas or responsibility may be attached to the individual positions.

Duties Related to Diabetic Education

To provide a comprehensive teaching and monitoring plan for newly diagnosed diabetic clients individualized to meet the needs, providing needs reassurance, teaching support until the client is able to manage the diabetic regime independently. To conduct or coordinate group diabetic education for secondary tertiary prevention of the complications of diabetics. To conduct surveys on client compliance of medication and health teaching as needed.

Duties Related to Chronic Client Care

To make regular visits to adults with chronic conditions using the nursing process to assess the needs and develop a care plan based on realistic client centered goals. To maintain and update the chronic conditions registry according to Kashechewan Health Services Home Care Policy. To schedule visits to the well elderly based on goals and objectives of care. To assess and maintain a list of medications for compliance and health teaching for home care clients.

Hospital Liaison Duties

Follow up on Kashechewan First Nation members admitted to hospital by visiting clients in hospital according to established schedule. To act as a client advocate and liaison between the community care programs and Kashechewan First Nation. Provide communication link with clinic staff and Kashechewan Health Services to ensure continuity of care between the institution and the community, meeting regularly with the Head Nurse staff for discharge planning. Identify the need for and orders aides for independent living required by the client prior to discharge.

Qualifications

- 1 A member in a good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario, with current registration.
Preferred qualifications include one or more of the following:
 - B.Sc. N degree in nursing from a Canadian University or recognized equivalent
 - A certificate or program in nursing or community health nursing from a recognized post-secondary institution.
- 2 Previous Home Care or Community Health work experience.
- 3 Must have demonstrated ability in public relations and interpersonal skills.
- 4 Must be self-directed and have demonstrated organizational skills.
- 5 Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- 6 Possess and maintain a valid drivers license.
- 7 Experience working with aboriginal organizations and federal/provincial governments.
- 8 Ability to work under minimal supervision and within a team framework.
- 9 Decision-making and problem solving skills.
- 10 Previous experience in geriatrics and/or palliative care an asset.
- 11 Ability to take on a supervisory role and Personal Support Worker's and Registered Practical Nurse.

Deadline: August 29th, 2003

Please send resumes and references to:
Home Care Coordinator, Elizabeth Wesley
Kashechewan Health Services
Box 242
Kashechewan, Ontario P0L 1S0
(705) 275-4466/4470/4474

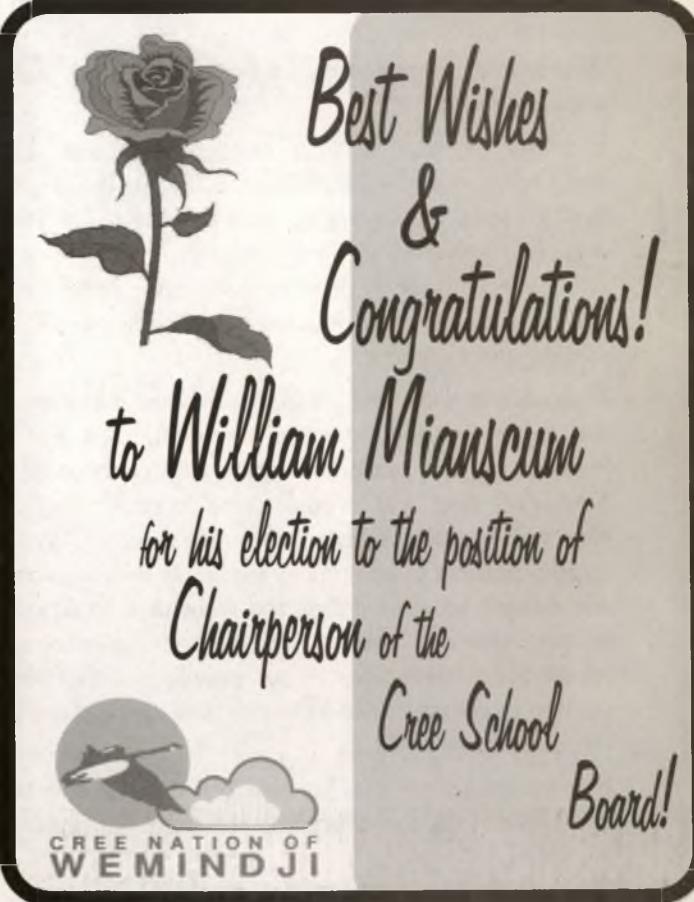


The Nation
belatedly
introduces
**Steve
Bonspiel.**
The newest
member of
our team.



Steve hails from Kanehsatake, better known as OKAI. This burly Mohawk and former New York City iron worker has doubled as reporter and our bodyguard since we don't remember when. Steve-O was schooled in Kahnawake just outside of Montreal. He's toiled as a medical taxi driver, tour guide, a Florida electrician and has held an endless series of "odd jobs."

Steve "Rivet" Bonspiel is 27 years old. Return his phone calls or face his poison pen.





The Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation

CONGRATULATE Robert Weistche on his Re-Election to a 2nd term as Chief of Waskaganish

On behalf of the Cree Nation of Mistissini



CONGRATULATIONS
to
William Mianscum
on his being elected
Chairperson
of the
Cree School Board!

-x-x-x- BEST WISHES -x-x-x-

WELL DONE
TO

Newly Elected Counselors:

Emily Hester
Jack Diamond
Ryan Erless
Roderick Jonah

Re-Elected:

William T. Hester

Elected representative to the Cree Board of Compensation:

Raymond Blackned



A Pearl to be Discovered

Located in downtown

Montreal.

*Hotel du Fort offers the
comfort of home in 127
tastefully appointed guest
rooms and suites
all featuring kitchenette*

*For information
on discounted rates and
reservations please
call 1-800-565-6333.*

1390, rue du Fort • Montreal • Quebec • H3H 2R7
www.hoteldufort.com • E-mail: reserve@hoteldufort.com

CLASSIFIEDS

100 - BIRTHS

It is with great pride that I announce the birth of my second grandson; Ethan Jossie James Happyjack who came into this world on July 16th 2003, weighing 9lbs 2oz, and 20" long. The proud parents whom I love dearly are Sabrina Mark & Allan S. Happyjack. I thank God for giving me another grandson to love and cherish and spoil (also to run around after!). Nakonee, my 1st grandson will always hold a special place in my heart, Ethan my 2nd will be my 'baby' grandson. I love them very much & that Kookum Flora will always be there for them

101 - BIRTHDAYS

In the early morning of August 20th 2000, I was blessed with a boy, Lance Aaron Jaymie. Since the time you came into my life you have brought me so much love, happiness, pride and joy. It amazes me how much you have grown into the handsome little man that you are, so caring, loving and always protecting your little brother and being the little man of the house. I thank you for your love, most of all your hugs and kisses. You and Lylas are my everything; you are the two men in my life that will always bring sunshine on my rainy days. I love you my son and Happy 3rd Birthday. With all my love, Mommy and baby brother Lylas.

This is just a little note to wish our Nouchimi Camp friend and leader, the big guy, a Happy Birthday on August 15th. Best wishes and many more years to come. Hey, we hope you don't clean your ears too much! Cause if you do, you'll be forgetting the Q-Tip! Ha, ha, ha... From your Nouchimi Camp girls.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to a friend, a sister and an aunt. She will be celebrating her 72 birthday on August 16th. May your day be special as you are, and save some cake for

us when we come down to Waswanipi aighty. Hey Tray, make sure you treat her like a princesses she deserves that. Once again Happy Birthday Sis. With love, Jonathan, Donna and Brianna (gagoos).

To the love of my life, Danny. A very special 'Happy Birthday' wish for you on August 7th. There is so much I could say about you but I'd run out of space, so briefly I'll say: you mean the world to me & you've bought so much joy and love to my life. Thank you for being who you are & for loving me unconditionally. Enjoy your special day, for you deserve it in every way. And remember I will love you forever! XXX Flora.

I would like to wish a Happy 1st Birthday to an adorable little boy, his name is Brayden Tomatuk (Brayden'sh). His Birthday is on August 22nd 2003. Have lots of fun blowing out your first candle. Once again, Happy Birthday and many more years to come. Love always, Kerrianne Tomatuk

102 - WEDDINGS

I would like to proudly announce the upcoming wedding for my sister Charlotte Ottereyes soon to be Spencer to Trevor Spencer, my future brother-in-law soon to be. The special day will be held on the 5th of September 2003 in Waswanipi. Congratulations to both of you and may your day be filled with love, joy, happiness and many more to come. Can't wait to see Dad wearing a suit again, can't remember when was the last time. Once again congrats! With love, Donna, Jonathan and Brianna from Nemaska.

103 - ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary on August 10th to our good friend Brenda and her husband Ruben 'The Stud', ha, ha, ha. May you share many happy and long loving moments. And many

more babies too. Happy Anniversary, from your two of a kind friends.

We want to wish our friends Ricky and Alice Visitor a Happy Anniversary on August 10th. May you have a long lifetime together and thank you for your friendship. From your two Nouchimi Camp (White House) friends, ha, ha, ha.

105 - OBITUARY

Words alone cannot express the heartfelt sympathy we feel for the Weapinacappo family, the Georgekish & Mayappa family for their recent losses. May God bless and comfort you all. With love, Fred, Beatrice and family (Wemindji).

'A Beloved Buddy' - In loving memory of Maria Diamond Ottereyes, born December 27th 1906 and passed away on July 4th 2003. You went to be with Jesus, and Buddy you are resting in heaven. I will always remember you in my prayers, what you suffered, the sickness you gone through while you lived on earth. I did want you to hold my hand, lying in bed in hospital in Chibougamau. In closing, be with Jesus and it will help me to strengthen my soul and body. You will be remembered as Buddy Angel of God, and may the Lord be with me too. From Jackson Jolly in Nemaska 7/15/03

300 - PERSONALS

To Caroline Happyjack my true fair & square Chiwetan Fear Factor Champion To me you won it!! You go Gurl!! Keep it up!!

We would like to send a message out to our dear grandson (6 months old) - Tyson John Loon in Chisasibi (son of Joe Loon and Alice Matthew). Dear Grandson, this is grandpa JB Loon and grandma Laurie Loon. It has been a long time since we've held you in our arms and we wanted to let you know that we love you and

truly miss you so much! You are such a handsome, strong boy just like your dad and precious and lovable like your mom!! When you smile, you bring joy and laughter to those around you! You bring tears and joyful memories when you are not around. I can understand why grandma Madeline doesn't want to let you go. You have created a lasting bond to those around you and it is very hard not to be able to hold you and cradle you in our arms. A lot of hug and kisses to our dear grandson - Tyson John Loon. Love Grandpa JB and Grandma Laurie, from Mistissini.

I would like to say hi to my best friends. Their names are; Geneva M, Stella B, Crystal C, Juliette O, Rosanna H, Heather H, Sarah H, Tracey H, Stewart H, Paul N, Roger S, Aaron M, John H and Susan N. You guys are the greatest. From one of your buddies.

Congratulations to our athletes from Waskaganish who competed in the 2003 Cree Nation Fitness Challenge in Nemaska on July 26-27, 2003. Rod Blueboy won 1st place in the Competitive Category. In the recreational category, Thomas Stevens in 5th place, Arnold Blueboy in 6th place, Jamie Stevens in 1st place, Diane Blueboy in 2nd place. Great job and keep it up. From your fans in Wask.

I would like to take this time to congratulate the Chief & Council of Ouje-Bougoumou on the Election Day on August 11th 2003. First of all, Chief Sam R. Bosum for being re-elected and our new deputy chief, Sophie H. Bosum and also the new Council members; Abel Bosum, Lance Cooper, Gaston Cooper, Sydney Coonishish and Anna Bosum. On behalf of the youth of OJ, we look forward for more community achievements with you guys...way to go Lance. From Joshua Bosum, fellah youth member of Ouje-Bougoumou.

PETRONOR

Une nouvelle image.
le même engagement.
A new image.
the same commitment.

GREE ENERGY DISTRIBUTION OF CANADA INC.
DISTRIBUTION D'ÉNERGIE CRIE DU CANADA INC.

Distributeur de produits pétroliers et de lubrifiants de qualité sur tout le territoire de la Baie-James

Distributor of fine Petroleum Products and lubricants all over the James Bay territory

1452, rue de la Québécoise
C.P.310
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 4P4
Tel: 819-824-5505 • Fax: 819-824-5420



Imprimerie MERZOZ

Raynald Meroz
PROPRIÉTAIRE

334, 3e Rue, Chibougamau
(Québec) G8P 1N5

Téléphone : 418-748-3520
Télécopieur : 418-748-6366
Courriel : rmeroz@sympatico.ca

IMPRESSION • LETTRAGE • ARTICLES PUBLICITAIRES

Charronnière

Restaurant Bar-Terrasse

Gaston Dufour, prop.
Bar: 748-7111

Pour réservation: Restaurant: 748-4818
Fax: 748-7330
571, 3e Rue, Chibougamau

CENTRE MOBILIER PLUS

New & Used

Purchases • Sales • Repair

Walter Pawlikowski, president

Furnitures • Matress • Appliances • Vacuum cleaners
Pieces & Accessories • Service and more...

449, 3^e Rue Chibougamau, QC G8P 1N6
Tel : 418-748-3426 • Fax : 418-748-3423

IN BASEMENT OF THE CHIBOUGAMAU LIBRARY AND COQ RÔTI

I.D. LOGIC

informatique



- installation, repair & maintenance
- software & equipment
- service contracts
- training
- rentals

Doris Lamothe, owner

Tel: (418) 748-4978 service@idlogic.com
Fax: (418) 748-6368 http://www.idlogic.com
556, 3e rue, Chibougamau, QC, G8P 1N9

Monuments GIBSON

Because everyone has a story to tell...

Call us for a free brochure

1-888-797-0158

monuments.gibson@sympatico.ca

Val d'or
1515, 3rd Av.
1-819-824-9182

Thunder Bay
607, Memorial Av.
1-807-345-0699

HARDY RINGUETTE



OUR CUSTOMERS
come from ALL OVER

The BIGGEST DEALER
in REGION!

0%
0% financing on
ALMOST EVERYTHING!

Over 100 Pick-Ups and Vans in stock!



100



C.P. 610,
1842, 3^e Avenue
Val-d'Or (Québec)
J9P 4P6



Tél.: (819) 874-5151
Fax: (819) 874-6835

Courriel:
haryringuette@cablevision.qc.ca



Waswanipi 4th Annual Business Development Conference

"Youth & Business- Reaching New Heights"



**Keynote
Speaker**
Brenda Chambers

- **Free registration for the 15 to 35 age group**
- **Guest Speakers**
 - Brenda Chambers, Top 40 under 40 Award
 - Youth Grand Chief, Marcel Happyjack
 - Nathaniel Arcand from "North of 60"
 - And more guest speakers
- **Funding Agencies**
 - Aboriginal Business Canada
 - Business Development Bank of Canada
 - Eeyou Economic Group
 - And more funding agencies
- **Prizes**
 - Laptop
 - Palm Pilots
 - Arts & Crafts
 - And more prizes



**Gala Star
Speaker**
Nathaniel Arcand on
"Pursuing Your Dreams".

For more information you can contact:

Julie Ann Cooper – Coordinator
Marlene I. Kitchen – Supervisor
Charlotte Ottereyes – Awards Coordinator
Gloria Jolly – Gala Coordinator

Tel.: 819-753-2389 • Fax: 819-753-2842 • www.wdconline.ca

*The first 100 participants will receive a Free conference bag



Waswanipi First Nation

Cree Nation Youth Council

